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# Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SY-05 OPR-02 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01

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P R 120913Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8810
INFOR AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1635

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: TONGA ILBO REPORTERS GO ON STRIKE; CHOSUN ILBO REPORTERS SIT IN

REF: SEOUL 1605

1. OVER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY REPORTERS FROM TONGA ILBO ARE REPORTEDLY STRIKING AGAINST TONGA MANAGEMENT IN WAKE OF RECENT FIRINGS OF TWENTY REPORTERS AND SUB-EDITORS, AND THEY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN OVER PRESS OFFICES AND RADIO STATION. AS WELL AS COMPOSING ROOM IN TONGA BUILDING. ON MARCH 12, TONGA CHAPTER OF KOREA JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION (KJA) CALLED FOR STRIKE TO INCLUDE SUSPENSION OF ALL NEWS-GATHERING ACTIVITIES AND TONGA NEWS BROADCASTING SERVICES, TEMPORARILY, AT LEAST, AFFECTING PUBLICATION OF MARCH 12 EDITION OF TONGA ILBO. AS OF LATE AFTERNOON, TONGA HAD NOT YET DISTRIBUTED THIS EDITION BUT REPORTEDLY MANAGEMENT WAS ATTEMPTING TO PUBLISH IT WITH PRESSES AT ANOTHER BUILDING. EARLY AFTERNOON BROADCASTS OF TONGA RADIO WERE SUSPENDED UNTIL MANAGEMENT BEGAN TO ASSUME BROADCASTER'S DUTIES
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LATER IN DAY. AT PRESENT NEWS AND MUSIC ARE BEING

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BROADCAST FROM TONGA RELAY STATION OUTSIDE
OF TOWN. COPY FOR NEWS IS BEING PREPARED AT CHOSUN
ILBO OFFICES BY TONGA SENIOR STAFF.

2. REPORTERS ARE CALLING FOR MANAGEMENT TO REHIRE
TWENTY REPORTERS AND SUB-EDITORS WHO WERE JUST FIRED
AS WELL AS DEMANDING DISMISSAL OF YI TONG-UK, NEWLY
APPOINTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF. (REFTEL). YI, WHO WAS
EXPECTED TO PROVIDE TONGA WITH STRONG MANAGEMENT, IS
NOW BEING BLAMED BY JOURNALISTS FOR FIRINGS AND OTHER
GRIEVANCES OF REPORTERS AGAINST MANAGEMENT.

3. REPORTERS ARE ALSO CALLING FOR OTHER LOCAL
JOURNALISTS' SUPPORT IN THEIR "FIGHT FOR FREEDOM OF
PRESS" AS WELL AS INDICATING THEIR OWN SUPPORT FOR
FELLOW CHOSUN ILBO JOURNALISTS. GROUP ALSO CRITICIZED
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION FOR ITS SUSPENSION
OF KJA JOURNAL. (REFTEL).

4. ALSO ON MARCH 12, APPROXIMATELY FIFTY CHOSUN ILBO
REPORTERS ATTEMPTED TO SIT-IN AT FRONT OF CHOSUN BUILDING
BUT WERE DISPERSED WITHOUT INCIDENT BY ESTIMATED
FIFTY PLAINCLOTHES AND UNIFORMED POLICE. USIS SOURCES
REPORT THAT GROUP MOVED FROM STREET TO NATIONAL PRESS
CENTER AND FROM THERE, POSSIBLY TO LOCAL SMALL HOTEL
THOUGH THIS IS STILL UNCONFIRMED.
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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, JOURNALISTS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, LABOR STRIKES
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1975SEOUL01635
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** D750086-0556
**From:** SEOUL
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Image Path:**
**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750358/aaaabzvm.tel
**Line Count:** 88
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ACTION EA
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 2
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** 75 SEOUL 1605
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** RowellE0
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** TONGA ILBO REPORTERS GO ON STRIKE; CHOSUN ILBO REPORTERS SIT IN
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, KS
**To:** STATE CINCPAC
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006